



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6976

LCO No. 4517

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF
CRIME.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) There shall be a state-wide public awareness
2 campaign to educate, inform and identify resources for the general
3 public about crime victim's rights and services. The public awareness
4 campaign shall be planned, designed and implemented by the Office
5 of Policy and Management in conjunction with representatives of the
6 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., Connecticut Coalition
7 Against Domestic Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and
8 Survivors of Homicide.

9 Sec. 2. Subdivision (17) of subsection (b) of section 54-203 of the
10 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
11 thereof:

12 (17) To provide a mandatory annual two hour training program for
13 judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, as defined in section 54-220,
14 police, probation and parole personnel, bail commissioners, officers
15 from the Department of Correction and judicial marshals to inform

16 them of victims' rights and available services. Such training shall be
17 planned, designed and implemented by representatives of Connecticut
18 Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., Connecticut Coalition Against
19 Domestic Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Survivors of
20 Homicide.

21 Sec. 3. Section 54-222a of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

23 (a) Whenever a peace officer determines that a crime has been
24 committed, such officer shall render immediate assistance to any
25 victim of such crime including obtaining medical assistance for any
26 such victim if such assistance is required, shall present a [card] form in
27 triplicate prepared by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator to a
28 victim [who has suffered physical injury] of crime, as defined in
29 section 1-1k, informing the victim of services available and the rights
30 of victims in this state. [and] The peace officer shall read to the victim
31 of crime the rights of victims in this state. Such form shall be signed by
32 the peace officer and the victim of crime. One copy shall be given to
33 the victim of crime, one copy shall be sent to the Office of the Victim
34 Advocate for purposes of data collection and analysis and one copy
35 shall remain with the peace officer. Such form shall be made available
36 in both English and Spanish. Such peace officer shall refer the victim of
37 crime to the Office of Victim Services for additional information on
38 rights and services.

39 (b) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt regulations, in
40 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection
41 (a) of this section.

42 Sec. 4. Section 46a-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

44 The Victim Advocate may, within available appropriations:

45 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to victims by state agencies and

46 those entities that provide services to victims, including the delivery of
47 services to families of victims by the Office of the Chief Medical
48 Examiner;

49 (2) Coordinate and cooperate with other private and public agencies
50 concerned with the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of
51 the constitutional rights of victims and enter into cooperative
52 agreements with public or private agencies for the furtherance of the
53 constitutional rights of victims;

54 (3) Review the procedures established by any state agency or other
55 entity providing services to victims with respect to the constitutional
56 rights of victims;

57 (4) Receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions
58 of any state or other entity providing services to victims and
59 investigate those where it appears that a victim or family of a victim
60 may be in need of assistance from the Victim Advocate;

61 (5) File a limited special appearance in any court proceeding for the
62 purpose of advocating for a victim:

63 (A) The right to notification of court proceedings;

64 (B) The right to attend the trial and all other court proceedings the
65 accused has the right to attend, unless such person is to testify and the
66 court determines that such person's testimony would be materially
67 affected if such person hears other testimony;

68 (C) The right to object to or support any plea agreement entered into
69 by the accused and the prosecution and to make a statement to the
70 court prior to the acceptance by the court of the plea of guilty or nolo
71 contendere by the accused;

72 (D) The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing;

73 (E) The right to restitution which shall be enforceable in the same

74 manner as any other cause of action or as otherwise provided by law;
75 and

76 (F) The right to information about the arrest, conviction, sentence,
77 imprisonment and release of the accused;

78 (6) Ensure a centralized location for victim services information;

79 (7) Recommend changes in state policies concerning victims,
80 including changes in the system of providing victim services;

81 (8) Conduct programs of public education, undertake legislative
82 advocacy, and make proposals for systemic reform;

83 (9) Monitor the provision of protective services to witnesses by the
84 Chief State's Attorney pursuant to section 54-82t; [and]

85 (10) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the
86 Office of the Victim Advocate, the purpose of the office and
87 procedures to contact the office; and

88 (11) Develop, in consultation with public and private agencies that
89 receive state and federal funds to deliver services to victims of crime,
90 uniform reporting standards for data to assess and evaluate the
91 effectiveness of victim service systems. Data shall include the number
92 of victims of crime receiving notification of their constitutional rights,
93 information about compensation and other benefits and information
94 about resources and services available to victims of crime, including
95 counseling and advocacy.

96 Sec. 5. (NEW) There shall be domestic violence education and
97 community outreach coordinators, within the Connecticut Coalition
98 Against Domestic Violence, sexual assault education and community
99 outreach coordinators, within the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis
100 Services, Inc., and an education and prevention specialist with the
101 Survivors of Homicide, and youth coordinators within Mothers
102 Against Drunk Driving. Such education and outreach coordinators

103 shall promote community safety by providing age and culturally
104 appropriate risk information, primary prevention education and
105 information about services and rights to members of the general public
106 and crime victims.

107 Sec. 6. The sum of four million seven hundred thousand dollars is
108 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management, from the
109 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for grants of
110 nine hundred thousand dollars to the Connecticut Coalition Against
111 Domestic Violence, one million three hundred thousand dollars to the
112 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., one million one
113 hundred thousand dollars to Mothers Against Drunk Driving and six
114 hundred thousand dollars to the Survivors of Homicide for the
115 purposes of this act. Such appropriations shall be used to supplement
116 and not supplant existing funding.

117 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide greater access to services by victims of crime.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]